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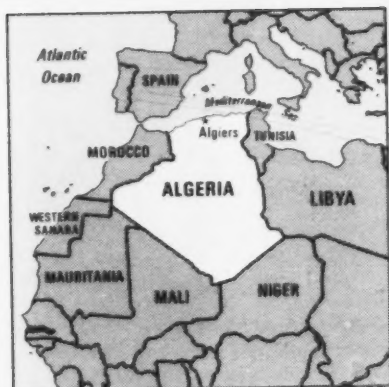
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Official Name:
**Democratic and Popular
Republic of Algeria**

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Algerian(s). **Population** (1985): 22 million. **Annual growth rate** (1983): 3.1%. **Ethnic groups:** Arabs and Arabized Berbers. **Religion:** 99% Sunni Muslim. **Languages:** Arabic, Berber, French. **Education** (1985): *Years compulsory*—to age 16. *Attendance*—81.7% ages 6–13 (90.9% male, 72% female). **Literacy** (1983)—52%; males 65%, females 40%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*

(1984)—106/1,000. **Life expectancy** (1982)—60 yrs. **Work force** (1984): 3.8 million. **Agriculture**—30%. **Industry and commerce**—36%. **Services**—15%. **Government**—19%.

Geography

Area: 2.4 million sq. km. (918,497 sq. mi.); almost one-third the size of the continental US. **Cities:** *Capital*—Algiers (pop. 2.4 million, 1982 est.). *Other cities* (1983)—Oran (663,000), Constantine (448,500), Annaba (348,300). **Terrain:** Three zones roughly parallel to the Mediterranean Sea and divided by mountain ranges, a relatively fertile coastal plain, Tellian Atlas Mountains, high plateau region, Saharan Atlas Mountains, and desert. About 3% cultivated land; 16% pasture; and 80% desert, wasteland, and mountains. **Climate:** Mild winters and hot summers in coastal plain; less rain and cold winters in high plateau. February–May, sandstorms and considerable daily temperature variation in the desert.

Government

Type: Republic. **Independence:** July 5, 1962. **Constitution:** November 19, 1976.

Branches: *Executive*—president. *Legislative*—National Popular Assembly. *Judicial*—Supreme Court and Higher Judicial Council.

Subdivisions: 48 *wilayaat* (provinces). **Political party:** National Liberation Front (FLN). **Suffrage:** Universal adult (age 18).

Central government budget (1985): \$23.2 billion.

Defense (1980 est.): 2.4% of GDP.

National holiday: Anniversary of the Revolution, November 1.

Flag: Staff side green, other half white; red star in a red crescent, centered.

Economy

Nominal GDP (1984): \$51.7 billion. **Real growth rate** (1984): 11.1%. **Per capita income** (est.): \$2,085. **Avg. inflation rate** (1983): 4.6%.

Natural resources: Crude oil, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead, zinc, mercury.

Agriculture (8% of GDP): *Products*—wheat, barley, oats, olives, dates, citrus fruits, sheep, cattle. *Arable land*—6.7 million hectares (about 13% of total land).

Industry (58% of 1982 GDP): *Types*—crude oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, refined petroleum products, iron and steel, home appliances, transportation equipment, food processing.

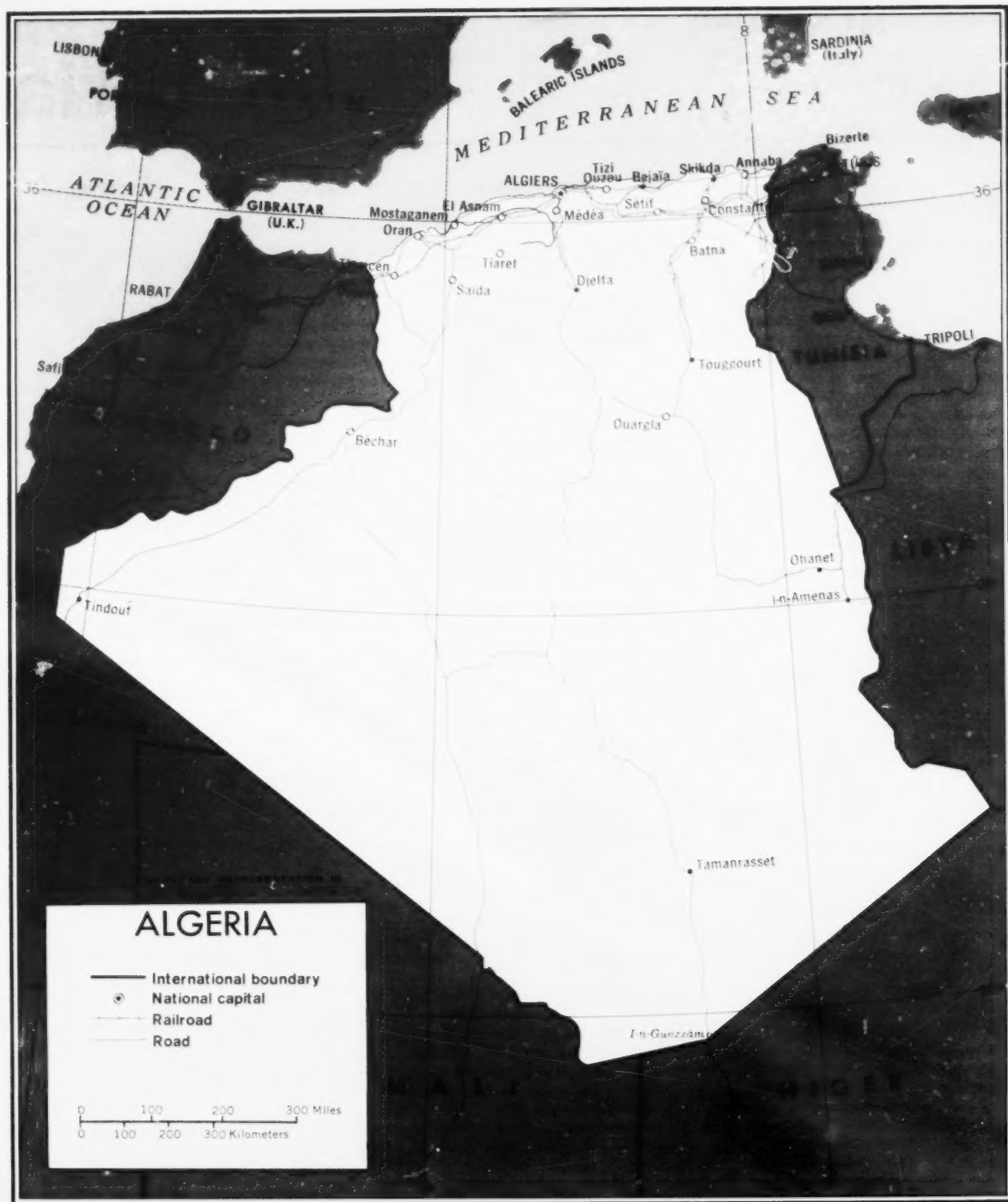
Trade (1984): *Exports*—\$12.9 billion: crude oil, condensates and refined products, liquefied natural gas, mercury, phosphates, wine. *Major markets*—US, France, FRG, Spain. *Imports*—\$9.8 billion: wheat, corn, soybeans, meat, milk, eggs, machinery and vehicles, aircraft, capital goods. *Major suppliers*—France, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, FRG, Canada, US. *External debt* (1984)—\$15–\$16 billion. *Debt service* (1984)—\$4.8 billion, or 37% of exports.

Official exchange rate: 4.98 dinars = US\$1 (September 1985). The controlled Algerian dinar is permitted to fluctuate very narrowly against the US\$.

Fiscal year: Calendar year.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and some of its specialized and related agencies, Organization of African Unity (OAU), Arab League, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), INTELSAT, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).



GEOGRAPHY

Algeria, the second largest state in Africa, has a Mediterranean coastline of about 998 kilometers (620 mi.). The Tellian and Saharan Atlas Mountain ranges cross the country from east to west, dividing the country into three zones. Between the northern, Tellian Atlas and the Mediterranean is a narrow, fertile coastal plain—the Tell (Arabic for hill)—with a moderate climate year round and rainfall adequate for agriculture. A high plateau region, averaging 914 meters (3,000 ft.) above sea level, with limited rainfall and great rocky plains and desert lies between the two mountain ranges. It is generally barren except for scattered clumps of trees and intermittent bush and pasture land. The third and largest zone, south of the Saharan Atlas range, is mostly desert. About 80% of the country is desert, steppes, wasteland, and mountains.

Algeria's weather is irregular from year to year, but in the north, the summers are usually hot with little rainfall. Winter rains begin in the north in October. Frost and snow are rare except on the highest slopes of the Tellian Atlas Mountains. Dust and sandstorms occur most frequently between February and May.

PEOPLE

Ninety-one percent of the Algerian population live along the Mediterranean coast on 12% of the land area. Forty-five percent of the population are urban, and urbanization continues despite incentives to keep the people on the land. About 1.5 million nomads and semisettled Bedouin still live in the Saharan area. According to 1983 data, 57% of the population are under age 20.

Nearly all Algerians are Muslim, of Arab, Berber, or mixed Arab-Berber stock. A mostly foreign Roman Catholic community of about 45,000 exists, as well as very small Protestant and Jewish communities. Many foreign technicians and teachers, including about 45,000 French and about 2,000 Americans, reside in Algeria. The total foreign (non-Arab) population is estimated at 75,000.

Algeria's education system has grown remarkably since 1962, and, in the last 12 years, has doubled to over 5 million students. Education is free and compulsory to age 16. Despite government allocation of substantial resources



Ruins at Tlemcen.

to education (15.8% of the 1985 state budget), population pressures and a serious shortage of teachers have combined to put severe strains on the system. In 1985, foreign teachers accounted for 71% of all secondary-level instructors. Algeria has begun to emphasize establishment of technical institutes for training in the skills necessary to operate the country's burgeoning industrial sector. Each year Algeria sends some 7,000 university-level students overseas, particularly to Western Europe and the United States, but also to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Algeria's free national medical program emphasizes preventive care. Newly qualified medical personnel are required by law to serve in state medical facilities for several years.

Housing is one of Algeria's most pressing problems because of the high rate of population increase and the influx of people from rural areas to the cities. The 1985-1989 development plan calls for the construction of 250,000 housing units per year. In 1984, 110,000 units were built.

HISTORY

Since the 5th century BC, the indigenous tribes of northern Africa (identified by the Romans as "Berbers") have been pushed back from the coast by successive waves of Phoenician, Roman, Vandal, Byzantine, Arab, Turkish, and, finally, French invaders. The greatest cultural impact came from the Arab invasions of the 8th and 11th

centuries A.D., which brought Islam and the Arabic language. The effects of the most recent (French) occupation—French language and European-inspired socialism—are still pervasive.

North African boundaries have shifted during various stages of the conquests. The borders of modern Algeria were created by the French, whose colonization began in 1830. To benefit French colonists, most of whom were farmers and businessmen, northern Algeria was eventually organized into overseas departments of France, with representatives in the French National Assembly. France controlled the entire country, but the traditional Muslim population in the rural areas remained separated from the modern economic infrastructure of the European community.

Indigenous Algerians began their revolt on November 1, 1954, to gain rights denied them under French colonial rule. The revolution, launched by a small group of nationalists who called themselves the National Liberation Front (FLN), was a guerrilla war in which both sides used terrorist and counterterrorist tactics. Eventually, protracted negotiations led to a cease-fire signed by France and the FLN on March 18, 1962, at Evian, France. The Evian accords also provided for continuing economic, financial, technical, and cultural relations along with interim administrative arrangements until a referendum on self-determination could be held.



View of market at El-Harrach, Algeria.

The referendum was held in Algeria on July 1, 1962, and France declared Algeria independent on July 3. On September 8, 1963, a constitution was adopted by referendum, and later that month, Ahmed Ben Bella was formally elected president. On June 19, 1965, President Ben Bella was replaced in a bloodless coup by a Council of the Revolution headed by Minister of Defense Col. Houari Boumediene.

The National Assembly was dissolved and the constitution suspended following the overthrow of the Ben Bella government. Eleven years of rule by decree followed. A new constitution was finally approved by popular referendum on November 19, 1976, and Houari Boumediene was elected president of the republic on December 10, 1976. He died 2 years later.

Following nomination by an FLN Party Congress, Col. Chadli Bendjedid was elected president on February 7, 1979; he was elected to a second 5-year term in January 1984.

GOVERNMENT

Algeria has a centralized government. Under the 1976 constitution, the government administers the country taking its guidance on fundamental policy issues from periodic congresses of the FLN party and from the party's Central Committee between congresses. From 1965 until the election of the National Popular Assembly in 1977 and creation of the FLN Political Bureau in 1979, all executive and legislative power was concentrated in the Council of the Revolution and the Council of Ministers (both headed by President Boumediene).

A process of building new political institutions began in 1967 when the communal (township) assemblies were created. *Wilaya* (provincial) assemblies were added in 1969. Movement toward forming national political institutions started on June 19, 1975, when President Boumediene announced that a new constitution would be promulgated. A National Charter stating the goals and principles of the Algerian revolution was drafted and approved by plebiscite in June 1976. The new constitution, pro-

viding for a presidential system of government and a National Popular Assembly, followed in November. In elections under the new constitution, President Boumediene, the sole candidate (FLN) was elected to a 6-year term on December 10, 1976. Elections for the National Popular Assembly took place in February 1977.

After President Boumediene's death, the country returned to a more collegial leadership representing a diversity of opinion. The first FLN Party Congress since 1964, with strong military backing, named Col. Chadli Bendjedid Secretary General of the FLN in January 1979 and the only presidential candidate. Constitutional amendments recommended by the FLN party congress and adopted by the National Popular Assembly in July 1979 reduced the presidential term from 6 to 5 years, required the designation of a prime minister, and established procedures in the event the chief of state is incapacitated. The FLN also restructured itself, replacing the Council of the

Revolution with a 17-member political bureau of senior political personalities and by creating a 160-member central committee to make policy between party congresses.

Chadli Bendjedid was elected president on February 7, 1979, and named his first cabinet 1 month later. He affirmed the continuity of his administration with that of his predecessor and with the Algerian revolution but also announced a review of national priorities. President Bendjedid consolidated his political position at the extraordinary FLN congress of June 15-19, 1980, which confirmed his mandate of "full power" and authorized him to make major personnel and policy changes. President Bendjedid was reelected to a second 5-year term in January 1984.

Prior to local elections in December 1984, provincial authority was increased, and 17 new provinces (*wilayaat*) were created. Algeria's 48 *wilayaat* are further subdivided into districts and communes. Each *wilaya* is administered by a *wali* (governor), appointed by decree and responsible to the Minister of Interior.

Civil, criminal, public, commercial, and family legislation which remained from the French colonial system has been reviewed by the National Commission of Legislation and is being amended to meet Algerian requirements. Commercial and family law have already been extensively revised, and new codes have been or are being prepared in the areas of customs, labor, water usage, forests, and grazing lands. The code dealing with family and personal status continues to be based on Muslim law but will be administered by the civil courts. The new system will retain the Supreme Court, established in 1963, with responsibility for regulating jurisprudence. In July 1975, all French laws still on the books were proclaimed invalid.

Principal Government Officials

President of the Republic, Secretary General of the FLN Party, and Minister of National Defense—Chadli Bendjedid

Prime Minister—Abdelhamid Brahimi

Ministers

Minister of State for the Presidency—

Mohamed ben Ahmed Abdelghani

Agriculture and Fisheries—Kasdi

Merbah

Commerce—Abdelaziz Khellef

Culture and Tourism—Abdelmajid

Meziane

Energy, Chemical and Petrochemical

Industries—Belkacem Nabi

Finance—Bouallem Hamouda

Foreign Affairs—Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim

Heavy Industry—Selim Saadi

Higher Education—Abdelhak Rafik

Bererhi

Hydraulics, Environment, and Forests—

Mohamed Rouighi

Ambassador to the United States—

Mohamed Sahnoun

Algeria maintains an embassy in the United States at 2118 Kalorama Road NW., Washington, D.C. 20008 (tel. 202-328-5300).

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Since 1965, Algeria has enjoyed relative political stability, including a peaceful and constitutional transition to President Bendjedid's leadership. The FLN seeks to mobilize popular participation in politics through its own countrywide structures and those of its mass organizations for peasants, youth,

veterans, and women. In keeping with the National Charter and the constitution, the Algerian Government espouses revolutionary socialism and applies this philosophy to its domestic and foreign policies. Its principal domestic objectives are to achieve economic development through industrialization and increased agricultural productivity and to raise the standard of living under a socialist system.

Using the slogan "rigor and work to guarantee the future," President Bendjedid has sought to revitalize FLN party and government structures as well as the economy.

Population growth and associated problems—unemployment and underemployment, inadequate social services for the rapidly growing rural population migrating to urban areas, inadequate industrial management and productivity, insufficient agricultural production, and inefficient distribution of consumer goods—are being addressed by the government.

Travel Notes

Customs: US citizens need a visa to enter Algeria. Travelers should clearly stipulate the intended date of entry and planned duration of stay on their visa applications.

Visitors are permitted to bring in any amount of foreign exchange, provided it is declared at customs. A special currency form is provided at the frontier; complete and retain it after authentication by airport customs authorities. Foreign currency can be exchanged at all banks, seaports, and airports and in some hotels and vacation villages. Unused foreign currency is reexportable, provided it was properly declared upon entry and amounts were duly recorded by the exchange authorities on the currency form.

Climate and clothing: The coastal areas have a mild climate, hot in summer and cool and rainy for several months in winter. Winter clothing is worn almost continuously from November until April, particularly at night, and rainwear is advisable. Rooms are not always warmly heated in winter.

Health: No vaccinations are required for entry. Typhoid, tetanus, polio, and cholera inoculations are recommended. Tapwater is not potable; bottled water is available.

Transportation: The domestic airline serves Oran, Constantine, Annaba, and many of the Saharan cities including Tamanrasset. There is railway passenger service between the major northern cities and bus service to many of the smaller cities and towns. Good paved roads, one of which links Morocco and Tunisia, cover the northern region and connect some oases. The Trans-Sahara

Highway is surfaced from Ghardia to Tamanrasset. Rental cars are available but expensive.

Telecommunications: There are international airmail, telegraph, telex, and telephone services to the US and Europe. Long-distance calls may be made from any post office, but it is not possible to reverse charges or to use a credit card. Algeria is five time zones ahead of eastern standard time.

Tourist attractions: Obtain information on Saharan travel from the Algerian Tourist Office (ONAT), 25-27 rue Khelifa Boukhalfa, Algiers; Algerian consulates; and the Amicale des Sahariens (Paris: 33, rue Paul Valery, 16^e, tel. KLE 20-24; Algiers: 14, Avenue du 1^{er} Novembre, tel. 62-22-02).

Algiers has a chronic shortage of hotel rooms; make reservations in advance.

National holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Labor Day	May 1
<i>Sursaut Revolutionnaire</i>	June 19
Id al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	June 19 (1985)*
Id al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)	August 26 (1985)*
Hijra New Year (First of Muharram)	September 16 (1985)*
Achoura (10th of Muharram)	September 25 (1985)*
Mawlid an-Nabi (Prophet's Birthday)	November 24 (1985)*

*Islamic holiday, will follow the lunar cycle (and advance 12-15 days annually).

ECONOMY

The planning, development, and administration of the Algerian economy is almost totally under government control. Government agencies and numerous state enterprises control foreign trade and operate almost all major industries, much of the distribution and retail systems, all public utilities, and the entire banking and credit system. In the decade following independence, Algeria nationalized all major foreign business interests as well as many private Algerian companies and about one-third of the arable farm land. (Some land was redistributed to private owners in early 1985.) Nationalization ranged from the assumption of a controlling interest to complete takeovers.

The Algerian Government has settled most of the claims for compensation of nationalized properties by foreign firms and in 1982 began settling claims by individuals. Under a 1982 investment code, which gives more latitude to private investment, the government determines the extent to which new domestic or foreign private investment will be allowed in a given development project and the conditions under which any such investment will be obliged to operate. Normally, only those foreign private investments involving the formation of joint ventures between foreign firms and appropriate Algerian state enterprises are allowed, with the latter retaining a controlling interest. Credit and banking are closed to foreign investment. Some U.S. firms have joint venture agreements with Algerian state enterprises, all in petroleum or mining activities; others maintain offices in Algeria.

The nominal gross domestic product (GDP) grew 11.1% in 1984 to \$51.7 billion. Hydrocarbons, primarily crude oil, gas, condensates, and refined products, accounted for 29%, construction for 14%, and agriculture for 8%.

With crude oil production of about 637,000 barrels per day (1984), Algeria accounts for less than 5% of total production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). However, Algeria's known natural gas reserves are the fourth largest in the world, after the U.S.S.R., Iran, and the United States. The government has adopted a development strategy that links the country's future to gas production and export, both by pipeline and in liquid form (liquefied natural gas—LNG) and gas derivatives such as condensate

and liquid petroleum gas (LPG—mainly butane and propane). Algeria has pioneered the development of LNG technology and, with Italy, has constructed the first trans-Mediterranean gas pipeline. Algeria's move into the condensate, LPG, and refined products markets has cushioned the country from the worst effects of the recent global hydrocarbon market.

The Algerian Government defends high oil and gas prices on the grounds that prices for petroleum and other raw materials, and especially nonrenewable hydrocarbon resources, in the past, brought inadequate returns to producer countries that need this income to advance their economies. Algeria's policy of high gas prices has, in recent years, dampened sales; more recently, the government has begun to accommodate market forces in its pricing policies.

The current 5-year economic development plan (1985-90) continues to be financed by hydrocarbon income, but there have been major changes in the expenditure side of the plan. Emphasis has been shifted away from heavy industrial development and toward the agricultural sector with the goal of ultimate agricultural self-sufficiency. Although new heavy industry has been given a reduced priority, industrial development still receives major allocations under the plan.

Algeria has 80,000 kilometers (48,000 mi.) of national and provincial roads, 75% of which are hard surfaced, 4,000 kilometers (2,400 mi.) of railway, 8 international airports—Algiers, Annaba, Constantine, Tebessa, Ghardaia, Tamanrasset, Oran, and Tlemcen—and 57 other airfields and landing strips. The railroad system is being modernized and expanded. Air Algérie, the state-owned airline, is expanding its fleet of jet aircraft and is improving its ground facilities. Although U.S. airlines do not serve Algeria, 18 foreign airlines, including most of the major West European airlines, operate regularly to Algiers, Constantine, and other cities. Nearly 7,000 merchant ships carried 15 million tons of cargo to Algeria in 1981 and 18.5 million tons in 1982. Seventy percent of the cargo passed through the main ports of Algiers, Annaba, and Oran. The state-owned shipping line, CNAN, is being expanded rapidly. It operates special tank ships to carry LNG, conventional oil tankers, and several types of dry cargo ships. Algeria continues to improve its communications and was among the first countries in the world to adopt earth satellite telecommunications for domestic and international use.

Although 30% of Algeria's population depends directly on agriculture for a living, less than 10% of the GDP is generated by this sector. The "socialist sector" of Algerian agriculture controls one-third of the best land in the country, mostly properties abandoned by French owners who left Algeria at the time of independence. This land is organized into worker-managed state farms (*domaines autogeres*). As a first step in the new development plan, some land (mostly in the less arable southern provinces) was redistributed to private owners, and further incentives are being given to private farmers who account for about 50% of farm output; more resources are being allocated to agriculture in an effort to improve and expand production.

Algeria produces large quantities of wheat and barley, wine, olives and olive oil, citrus fruits, and dates. Nevertheless, it must import at least one-third of its food to feed its growing population.

Algerian trade is primarily with Western Europe, Japan, and the United States. Algeria accords most-favored-nation status to all countries and has special trade arrangements with its immediate neighbors and the European Communities.

In 1984, Algeria exported an estimated \$12.8 billion in goods, almost totally hydrocarbons. Algeria imported \$9.8 billion in goods in 1984. The U.S. sales share that year was almost \$520 million, down from just under \$1 billion in 1982. France has been Algeria's principal trading partner since 1981.

Despite the drop in U.S. sales, new measures to make Algerian commercial laws more flexible, the government's aggressive development plan, its investment rate, and its high foreign exchange earnings continue to offer excellent prospects for U.S. business. Subsidized exports to Algeria by foreign governments create obstacles for American companies, but these are not insurmountable.

Algeria receives economic development assistance, including grants, technical assistance, and concessionary loans, from West and East European countries, China, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the UN Development Program, and specialized agencies of the United Nations including the World Bank. France, the U.S.S.R., and East European countries maintain several thousand technical specialists in educational, military, industrial, and health-related activities in Algeria, although the government seeks to reduce its dependence on foreign

specialists. The United States provided direct economic assistance (PL-480 grain) to Algeria in 1966-67 and, since then, has contributed foodstuffs for the World Food Program's school feeding program in Algeria. In 1980-81, the United States contributed \$4 million in disaster relief to earthquake victims. Algeria cooperated with the United States on the pass-through of U.S. aid to Sahelian and Saharan African nations, and, in addition, made major efforts to assist drought-afflicted economic immigrants in southern Algeria.

Algeria provides assistance of unknown dollar value to many African states, much of it as scholarships for students to study at Algerian universities. In 1985, the Government of Algeria organized and contributed \$10 million to an OAU [Organization of African Unity] relief fund for victims of the African drought in addition to an unspecified amount of monetary aid on a bilateral basis. It also provides shelter and food in Algeria for more than 40,000 non-Algerian drought victims. The Algerian Government, in conjunction with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, provides food and shelter to an estimated 165,000 (Algerian Government estimates) refugees from the Western Sahara conflict, who live in camps near the town of Tindouf in southwestern Algeria.

DEFENSE

Algeria's armed forces, known collectively as the Popular National Army, total about 135,000 members, with approximately 100,000 reservists, and are under the control of the president, who is also minister of national defense. Defense expenditures accounted for \$600 million or 6% of Algeria's budget in 1979 and grew to \$700 million or 9.7% of the 1980 budget.

Algeria is a leading military power in the region and has its forces oriented toward its western (Morocco) and eastern (Libya) borders. Its primary military supplier has been the Soviet Union, which has sold various sophisticated equipment under military trade agreements. Algeria has attempted, in recent years, to diversify its sources of military materiel. Military forces are supplemented by a 15,000-member gendarmerie or rural police force under the control of the president and a 30,000-member *Sûreté Nationale* or metropolitan police force under the Ministry of the Interior.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Algeria defines its foreign policy as one of independence and nonalignment. It is often a leading proponent of the Third World viewpoint in international affairs and has taken an active role in the Non-Aligned Movement. Algeria advocates securing a greater share of the world's wealth for developing countries by securing higher prices for the raw materials they produce.

As a result of its own revolutionary experience, Algeria supports what it considers to be legitimate "national liberation movements," including the Palestine Liberation Organization and southern African nationalist groups. Since 1976, Algeria has supported the Polisario, a group claiming to represent the population of the Western (formerly Spanish) Sahara. Although cautious about escalation of the conflict, the Government of Algeria has provided the Polisario materiel, financial and political support, and sanctuary in southwestern Algeria around Tindouf for its fighters and refugees of the conflict. Diplomatic relations were broken with Morocco and Mauritania after they partitioned and occupied the former Spanish colony under the terms of a November 1975 agreement with Spain. Mauritania withdrew from the Western Sahara conflict in August 1979 and reestablished relations with Algeria. Algerian-Moroccan relations have been complicated further by a longstanding border dispute. Although a settlement was reached in June 1972, Morocco has not ratified the agreement. Algerian-Moroccan relations were again strained when Morocco aligned itself with Libya in the August 1984 Oujda "Treaty of Union." Algeria has no major problems with its eastern neighbor, Tunisia, nor with its southern neighbors, Mali and Niger.

Algeria relations with France traditionally have been colored by problems of Algerian residents in France, French transfer payments to Algerians, and unsettled claims dating from Algerian independence.

Algeria is interested in developing political and commercial relations with African countries to the south and looks to sub-Saharan Africa as well as to the Maghreb as eventual markets for its industrial products. The Algerian Government has paved a trans-Saharan highway from Algiers to Tamanrasset. Paving of forks to Niger and Mali should further facilitate expanded trade between North and West Africa.

Algeria has diplomatic relations with more than 100 countries, and 90 countries maintain diplomatic representation in Algiers.

U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS

Algeria broke diplomatic relations with the United States at the time of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Relations improved gradually after 1969, partly as a result of growing mutual interest in trade, development of energy resources, and Algeria's interest in acquiring American technology. In 1973 and 1974, the Secretary of State visited Algeria several times for talks with President Boumedienne and other Algerian officials, and President Boumedienne made an unofficial visit to Washington in April 1974. Full diplomatic relations were resumed on November 12, 1974, and the new U.S. Ambassador presented his credentials in January 1975. Algeria sent an ambassador to Washington in June 1977.

Further Information

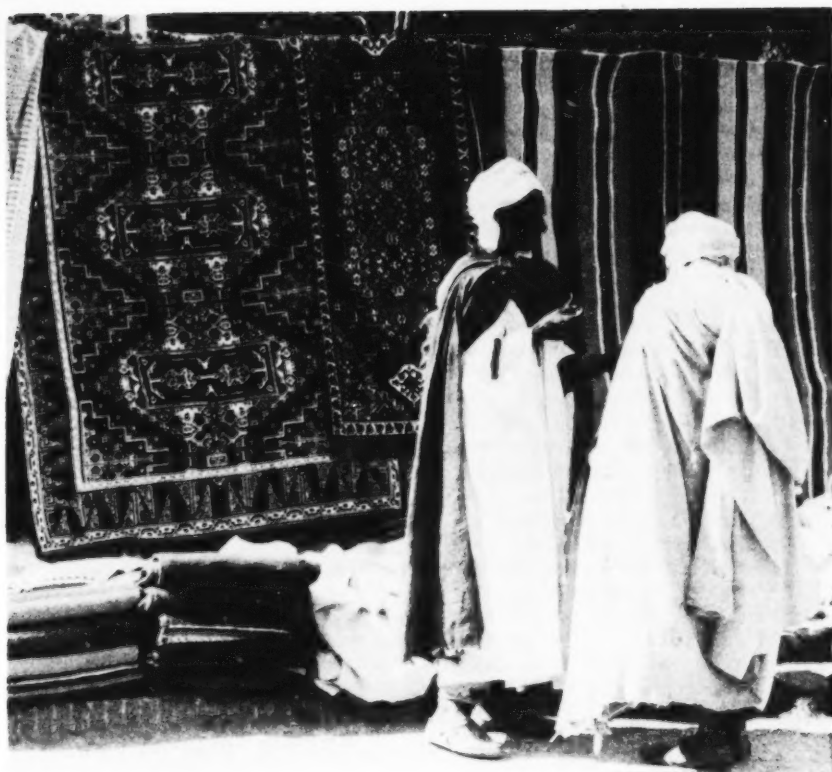
These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402:

- American University. *Algeria: A Country Study*. 3d ed., Area Handbook Series, 1979.
- U.S. Department of State. *Algeria Post Report*. April 1984.

For information on economic trends, commercial development, production, trade regulations, and tariff rates, contact the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.



Carpet market at Khroub, near Algiers.

The major political differences which marked U.S.-Algerian relations in the early years of Algerian independence have been ameliorated. Following the rupture of U.S.-Iranian relations in April 1980, Algeria became the protecting power for Iranian interests in the United States. Algeria served as the intermediary for the release of U.S. hostages held in Tehran. Relations have improved in recent years and can now be characterized as good. President Bendjedid visited Washington in April 1985—the first ever state visit by an Algerian head of state—demonstrating the extent of improved U.S.-Algerian relations. During the visit, an agreement establishing a Joint Economic Commission was signed, and a cultural agreement was initiated.

For many years, Algeria's export earnings derived mainly from sales of crude oil, more than one-half of which went to the United States. Since 1979, however, Algeria has reduced its ex-

ports of crude oil and increased exports of condensate, natural gas, and refined products. U.S. imports of Algerian crude and refined hydrocarbons, which had dropped from \$5.2 billion in 1981 to \$2.7 billion in 1982, rose again in 1983 and 1984 to more than \$3.5 billion per year. The U.S. trade deficit with Algeria for each of those years was approximately \$3 billion.

The United States has no Agency for International Development (AID) or Peace Corps programs in Algeria. More than 1,000 Algerian students are enrolled in U.S. universities in any given year. A number of professionally distinguished Algerians have visited the United States under the auspices of the cultural exchange programs of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA). These programs have included a limited number of grants to U.S. citizens to teach and conduct research at Algerian universities. Teams of Algerian agricultural and irrigation experts have also visited the United States, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The United States has a small (\$50,000 per year) international military education and training (IMET) program for training Algerian military personnel. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed a \$172,000 program to train Algerian agronomists. In 1980-81, the United States provided \$4 million in disaster relief to victims of a major earthquake at El Sanam (now "Chleff"). For 1983-86, the UN Development Plan has programmed expenditures of \$36 million.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—L. Craig Johnstone
Deputy Chief of Mission—Charles H. Brayshaw
Political Officer—Richard Allan Roth (after summer 1986, John W. Limbert)
Economic Officer—Mary Dell Palazzolo
Commercial Officer—Andrew Grossman
Consular Officer—Glenda Gaye Maris
Administrative Officer—Giovani Palazzolo
Agricultural Attache—John H. Wilson
Public Affairs Officer (USIA)—John Archibald (after summer 1986, Edward Bernier)
Defense Attache—Lt. Col. Anthony DiLeonardo, U.S.A.
Principal Officer, Oran—Barbara L. Schell
Consular Officer, Oran—Ann Sides

The U.S. Embassy is located at 4 Chemin Cheich Bachir Brahimi, Algiers; mailing address B.P. Box 549 (Alger-Gare) (tel. 601425/255/186/716/828; telex 52064).

The consulate in Oran is located at 14 Square de Bamako (tel. 390972; telex 22310 AMCONRN). ■

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